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The 6th North Carolina State Troops.

When the country was passing through the throes of the early part of 1861 the writer of this sketch was a cadet at the North Carolina Military Institute at Charlotte, N. C.

It was a time of great excitement—stirring events of great import were following each other in rapid succession, and every mail was anxiously waited for, for news. State after State was exercising the right to secede from the Union, because rights reserved and rights not delegated were violated by those who had secured the ascendancy in the United States Congress. There was ugly talk by them of coercing, of subjugating, and, if necessary, exterminating the seceders.

A war-cloud was looming up on our political horizon; Military companies were organizing; an army had been gathered at Charleston; all eyes were turned toward Fort Sumter.

The cadets partook of the general excitement, and as the operations in and around Charleston became more and more serious they became restive.

Our Superintendent, Maj. (afterwards Gen.) D. H. Hill, went down there, and when, after a few days stay, he returned to the Institute, the whole corps assembled to hear him tell what he had seen and heard. He gave a full account of what was being done by Gen. Beauregard and his Confederates, of their plans for preventing the re-enforcement of Sumter, and for capturing it, by bombardment, if necessary.

Several of the cadets expressed a desire to go at once to the seat of war, for fear, as they said, Sumter would be taken and the war be over before they could have a chance to see anything of it. To them Maj. Hill said, in a very serious manner, "Young gentlemen! if there be one hostile gun fired at Sumter, we will *all see enough of it* before the war is over." Prophetic words!